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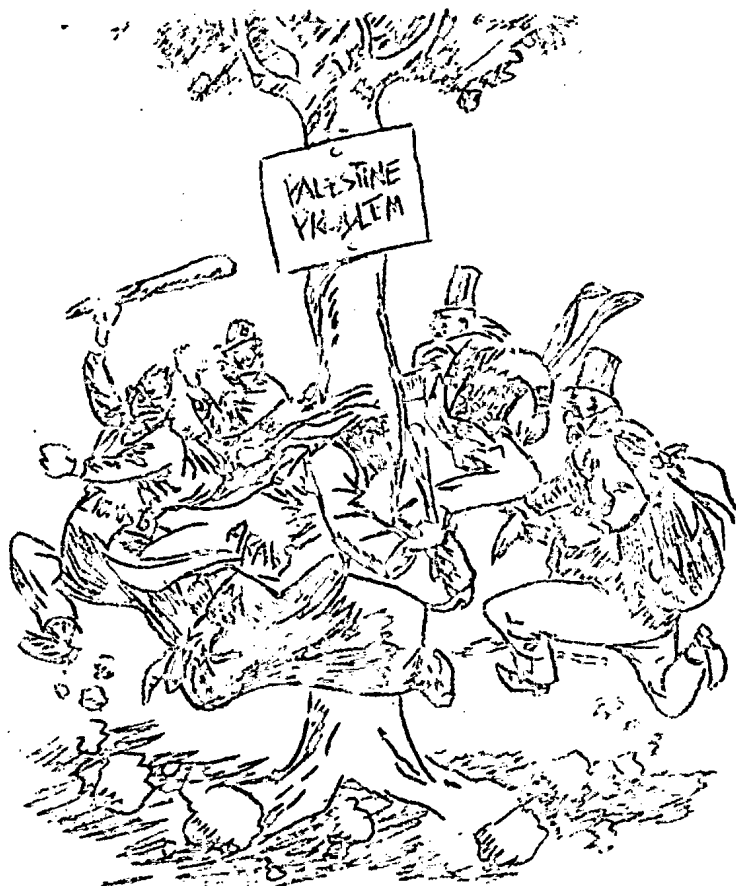
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PART I

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 2

For week ending 25 May 1948

Palestine Imbroglio. Recent behavior of the Security Council in the face of flagrant breaches of the peace in Palestine once again points up the subordination of UN Charter principles to the special national interests of Council members. A US resolution which recognized the existence of war and appropriately ordered a cease fire under Chapter VII of the Charter was rejected by the Council last week. In its place was passed the latest of a long series of resolutions merely calling on the parties to "abstain from hostile military actions."

Of the permanent SC members, the USSR and France supported the US resolution while the UK and China opposed it. Soviet support proceeded not from any solicitude for Israel, but from a policy of encouraging conflict and confusion in the Middle East. The French, with their traditional devotion to theory and formal logic, favored action to which the language of the Charter pointed. They could make this decision without great difficulty, not being involved in the issue as directly as the UK and US. Britain, determinedly clinging to her position in the Middle East,



Here We Go Round the Mulberry Tree

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approached the problem empirically, arguing that inasmuch as the UN lacked military force with which to implement extreme sanctions, it should not involve itself in such measures under Chapter VII. Chinese delegate Tsiang, who had been most cooperative with the US while Chairman of the Political Committee of the recent General Assembly session, backed the British. He was miffed at the suddenness of US recognition of Israel.

SC agreement on a mere exhortation to cease fire is more easily obtained than a definite order under Section 25 of the Charter, which binds all UN members to observance. For example, a cease fire order might make it more difficult for the British to continue supplying Transjordan with arms and military leadership. The fundamental difficulty in arranging a truce lies in the necessity of freezing a military situation as of a particular time. This, in almost every case, has the effect of stabilizing the advantage already gained by one side. Inasmuch as most SC members are in effect championing either Arab or Jew, agreement becomes difficult.

The problem resembles the homely one of deciding when to end a poker game. Recent British actions in the SC suggest that the UK wants to keep the game going until King Abdullah can win such chips as Jerusalem and the Negeb. The British apparently believe that in bringing about this outcome they are serving not merely their own fundamental interests in the Middle East but those of the entire Western world as well.

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Double veto applied in Czech case. A Soviet double veto ended Chile's proposal to form a three-nation Security Council sub-committee to hear witnesses and collect evidence to substantiate Chilean charges of Soviet conspiracy in the recent Czech coup. The first veto blocked an attempt to declare the setting up of the sub-committee a procedural matter beyond the reach of the veto. The second rejected the proposal itself.

Soviet action was not unexpected. In anticipation thereof, the Western powers have been making plans to read affidavits of leading Czech refugees into the record, thus saving face for the SC in a matter where a permanent member has again succeeded in protecting its own actions from successful questioning. Meanwhile former Czech delegate Papanek is preparing testimony to the effect that Soviet pressure was applied to the Czech UN delegation as far back as the San Francisco Conference.

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New Soviet face at Lake Success. First indication of the anticipated departure of USSR delegate Gromyko was the reported loading of the Soviet freighter Marshall Govorov with belongings (including household effects) of several leading USSR officials. Subsequently the chief Soviet representative informed Secretary General Lie of his departure "on leave" with Deputy Foreign Minister Jakob Malik assigned to serve "in (his) absence." Perhaps Gromyko really needs a rest -- twenty-four vetoes is a pretty rugged routine even when scattered over two years -- but the question arises whether a Deputy Foreign Minister would have been designated as a replacement merely for a short vacation period. Moreover, the dispatch of bulky paraphernalia suggests that Gromyko may receive a new assignment.

Reputedly a good English linguist, Malik is also an expert on Far Eastern affairs. His appointment may indicate a change in USSR policy. Possibly, Soviet focus in the UN will be shifted from European questions to those of Asia. Or perhaps the appointment of the more genial Malik presages less intransigent Soviet actions in the UN than in the past--a change which may well represent one phase of the new "peace offensive."

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PCIRO revises immigration policy. Swift developments in Palestine have forced the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization (PCIRO) to revise its policy on the sponsorship of immigration to the Middle East. PCIRO decided not to assist immigration to any area of armed conflict or to any belligerent state. It will sponsor only genuine resettlement schemes and will not facilitate the flow of potential fighters to areas of contest or encourage immigration which may otherwise aggravate international relations. This policy will increase the difficulties of the Western occupying powers in Germany in carrying out their plans to resettle Jewish DP's in Palestine.

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Poland seeks US dollars for its coal. A Polish proposal to the ECE Coal Committee that the US be called upon to supply only those quantities and grades of coal which cannot be obtained from European sources, reflects Poland's concern lest competition of free or subsidized US coal hamper profitable marketing of its growing export surplus. Apparently Poland's main purpose is to secure ERP dollars for coal that cannot be marketed through existing bilateral agreements, and to prevent price reductions on these exports. While the UK opposes payment of ERP dollars

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for this purpose, the US coal expert on the ECE doubts that European production can be fully utilized unless ERP countries are permitted to pay dollars for some Polish coal. He believes that the essential problem is the price and how this would affect UK and Bizonal earnings from coal exports.

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USSR membership in ECME blocked. In order to prevent Soviet participation in the proposed Economic Commission for the Middle East (ECME), the US, UK, France and China have renounced membership on condition that no Great Power be included. The UK, in particular, strove for a place on the Commission because of its strategic interests in the area, but evidently considers the exclusion of the USSR more important than her own participation. The Ad Hoc Committee on ECME voted 10-1 (USSR) to restrict membership to Middle Eastern states (including Greece, Turkey, Afghanistan and Ethiopia). The Committee also decided to admit dependent territories in the region upon application by the responsible metropolitan powers. As in the Economic Commissions for Asia and the Far East and for Latin America, the Committee rejected the Soviet proposal that these non-self-governing territories be allowed to apply directly.

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